

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

KMC Inc.

Rhode Island Manufacturing Extension Services

KMC Hires Six M.O.S.T. Program Graduates

Client Profile:

KMC is a world leader in the design, analysis and manufacturing of fluid bearings, and offers a complete line of hydrodynamic fluid film bearings and associated products for the rotating machinery. KMC bearings can be customized to meet specific application requirements. In addition to providing a complete lateral and torsional rotordynamic analysis, bearing failure analysis, testing and problem diagnosis, they also offer training seminars on bearings, seals, dampers, couplings, vibrations and rotordynamics. The company employs 27 people at its facility in West Greenwich, Rhode Island.

Situation:

The need for KMC's products, high precision bearings used for the energy and oil and gas exploration industry, was booming and capacity had been exceeded. Customer needs were not being met and the company's growth program was slipping. KMC's general manager, Dilip Jain, needed more machinists for his machining operation. His efforts, through the newspaper and current employee referrals, were not enough until he learned of the Machine Operators Skill Training (M.O.S.T.) program, funded by the Department of Labor. He contacted the Rhode Island Manufacturing Extension Services (RIMES), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

The M.O.S.T program, administered by RIMES, is designed to address the identified shortage of skilled machinists throughout the U.S. Once trained, the machine operators are placed in participating manufacturing companies that use CNC machine tools. These companies agree to a 60-day on-the-job (OJT) program once the trainees enter their workforce. Since KMC entered the program, the company has hired 6 machine operators and generated incremental shipments and reduced costs. The company anticipates hiring two additional machinists from a future class.

Results:

- * Reduced costs by \$50,000.
- * Created 6 new jobs.

Testimonial:

"The M.O.S.T. program does a nice job of preparing employees for a career in machining. The program includes an overview of shop math, blueprint reading, metrology and both manual and CNC programming and machining. While the mechanical training is good, we find the vetting of personnel to be of much value. In effect, the students spend two solid weeks under the supervision of the M.O.S.T. faculty and tardiness as well as absenteeism is not tolerated. We know that when these men and women graduate from the program, they have the mechanical as well as the employability skills required of them in the workplace."

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Dilip Jain, General Manager